



HAMILTON BROOK, SMITH & REYNOLDS, P.C.

RCE/2700

JAN 8 2004
U.S. POSTAL SERVICE
REQUEST
FOR
CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE)
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Subsection (b) of 35 U.S.C. § 132, effective on May 29, 2000, provides for continued examination of a utility or plant application filed on or after June 8, 1995.

<i>Application Number</i>	08/857,273
<i>Filing Date</i>	May 16, 1997
<i>Confirmation Number</i>	3991
<i>First Named Inventor</i>	Peter A. Ronzani
<i>Group Art Unit</i>	2674
<i>Examiner Name</i>	Wu, Xiao Min
<i>Attorney Docket Number</i>	0717.1083-008

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 of the above-identified application.

NOTE: 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 is effective on May 29, 2000. If the above-identified application was filed prior to May 29, 2000, applicant may wish to consider filing a continued prosecution application (CPA) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(d) (PTO/SB/29) instead of a RCE to be eligible for the patent term adjustment provisions of the AIPA. See Changes to Application Examination and Provisional Application Practice, Final Rule, 65 Red. Reg. 50092 (Aug. 16, 2000); Interim Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 14865 (Mar. 20, 2000), 1233 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 47 (Apr. 11, 2000), which established RCE practice.

1. Submission required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114

a. [] Previously submitted

- i. [] Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 previously filed on [].
(Any unentered amendment(s) referred to above will be entered).
- ii. [] Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on [].
- iii. [] Other -- [].

b. [] Please do not enter the amendment(s)/reply under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 previously filed on [].

c. [X] Enclosed

- i. [X] Amendment/Reply
- ii. [] Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)
- iii. [] Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)
- iv. [X] Petition for Extension of Time - [5] month(s) with copy
- v. [] Other -- [].

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2. Miscellaneous

- a. Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.103(c) for a period of [] months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i) required)
- b. Other -- [].

3. **Fees** The RCE fee under 37 CFR §1.17(e) is required by 37 CFR §1.114 when the RCE is filed.

a. [X] A check is enclosed for the following fees in the total amount of \$2,816.00
OR
[] Authorization is granted to charge the following fees in the total amount of \$[] to Deposit Account No. 08-0380. A copy of this document is enclosed for accounting purposes

- i. [X] RCE fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e)
- ii. [X] Extension of time fee (37 C.F.R. §§ 1.136 and 1.17)
- iii. [X] Amendment Fee
- iv. [] 'Other -- [].

b. [X] Authorization is hereby granted to charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 08-0380. A copy of this document is enclosed for accounting purposes.

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY OR AGENT REQUIRED

Name (Print/Type)	Rodney D. Johnson	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	36,558
Signature		Date	January 5, 2007

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below:

Name (Print/Type) **Denise Caredeo**